

AORN Journal

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Abbreviations used in this index:

AS	Ambulatory Surgery column
BR	Board Report column
CI	Clinical Issues column
ed	Editorial
Ethics	Ethics column
HS	Home Study Program
jt auth	joint author
law	OR Nursing Law column
legis	Legislation column
L	Letter
O	Opinion column
PI	Practical Innovations column
PM	President's Message column

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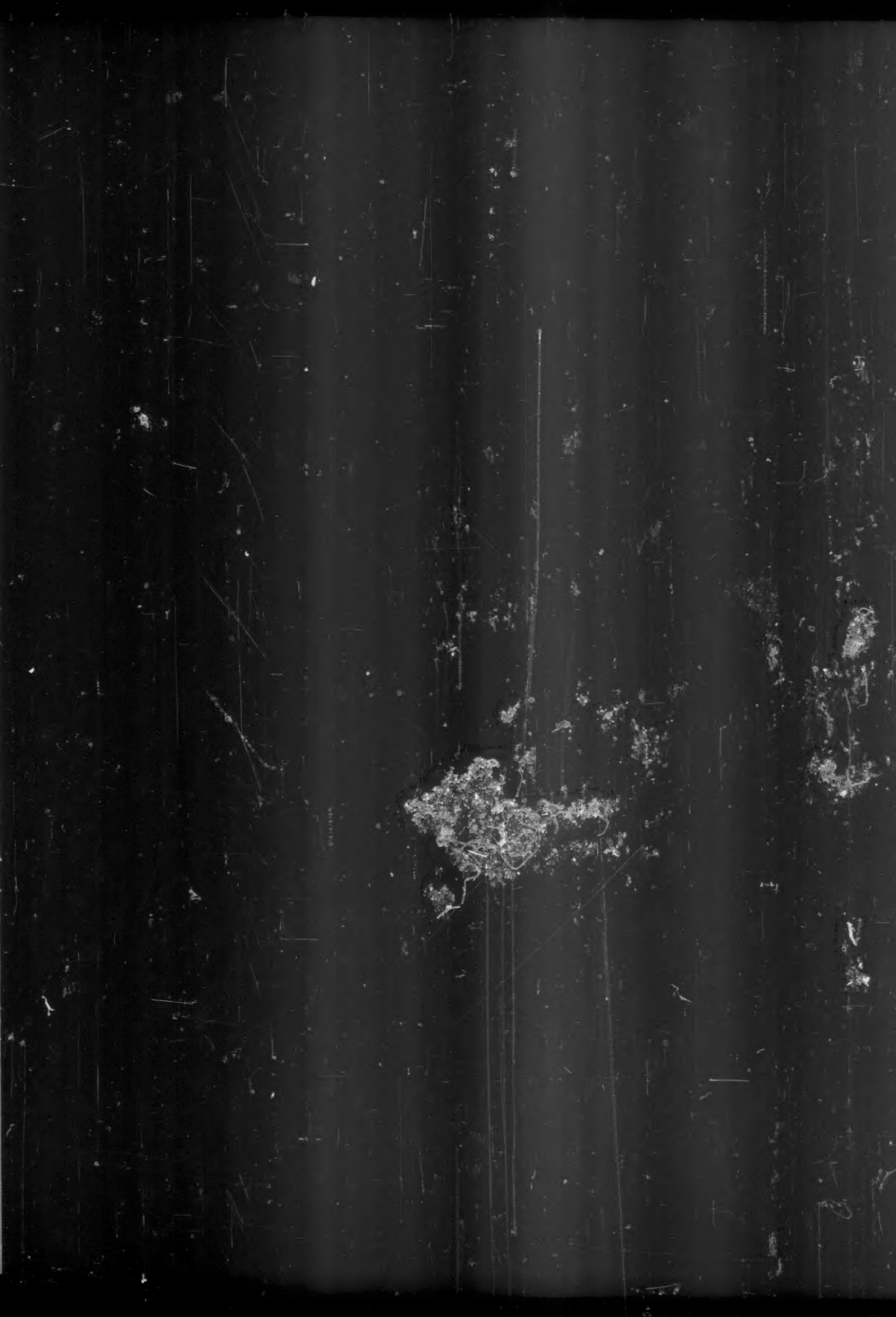
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MARLA M. GRABER, M.L.S.

Cell Transplants May Reduce Pain

Physicians may be performing a new surgical procedure on patients with intractable pain by the end of this year. Studies performed at the University of Illinois involved implanting dissociated bovine chromaffin cells or pieces of rat adrenal medullary tissue into the parenchyma of the periaqueductal gray matter or the dorsal spinal cord subarachnoid space in rats. After implantation, long-term analgesic effects were achieved when the rats were stimulated with small doses of nicotine, according to the August 10 issue of *Medical World News*.

Behavioral changes in pain sensitivity in the rats were measured with the hot plate, paw pinch, and tail flick tests—the same tests that have been used for 50 years to test the efficacy of pharmacologic analgesic agents. Repeated doses of nicotine triggered analgesia in the animals for as long as seven months. Neurosurgeons there are seeking approval to perform similar transplants in humans within the year. After the cell implant, humans would be relieved of pain by chewing gum containing nicotine.

Physicians at the University of Tennessee (UT) may perform the first transplant of human adrenal medullary tissue into the lumbar spine of a patient, also before the end of the year.

The Illinois physicians anticipate doing allografts using adrenal medullas removed along with donor kidneys. A physician at UT plans to use the transplant technique in patients who have chronic benign pain. He will autograft cell suspensions or bits of tissue from the patient's own adrenal medulla into the subarachnoid space.

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